

# The Vasey Voice.



*Vaucluse House trip. Pamela, Jean, Grace and Pat – Residents from Lane Cove.*

## A message from the CEO.

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Vasey Voice. It is good news that the weather is starting to warm up and I am looking forward to some longer days and warmer summer evenings.

It is pleasing to note that the frequency and variety of outings continues to expand with increasing numbers of residents joining in. Recent destinations included Watsons Bay, Barangaroo, Drummoyne Sailing Club, and Cronulla. Planned upcoming trips include the Hunter Valley Gardens, Elizabeth Bay House and the Blue Mountains. These trips have been successful in strengthening existing friendships and creating new ones, particularly between residents from different villages. This helps greatly in building a stronger community. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Kelsey or Nancy directly.

Our renovation program continues with exterior painting now completed at all villages. The ageing metal sunscreens at Maroubra have been replaced with new external blinds. Renovations to village laundries and community rooms will

continue over the next 12 months. There will be consultation meetings held at each village to discuss the proposed plans and to seek resident input, so stay tuned for information regarding upcoming dates.

Our annual resident survey will be conducted in October. This is an important opportunity for Vasey to receive feedback from residents in order to continue to improve the villages and our services. Thanks to those who completed the survey last year and we look forward to hearing from even more people this year.

Finally, I could not do without the support of the talented and dedicated team of staff we have at Vasey. In this edition of the Vasey Voice we have a staff profile of our Office Manager, Aki. She is a great help to me personally and keeps the office and myself in order. Please don't hesitate to contact Aki if there is anything you need.

Thanks  
Graham Hooper  
CEO

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# The 57th Annual General Meeting.

The 57th Annual General Meeting of Vasey was held on 30 July 2019 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sydney. The event was well attended by members and some interested residents as well. A good evening was had by all and we thank members for their ongoing support for the work of Vasey throughout the year.



*Vasey team with Keith Schollum and Kate Gunton*



*Carol – Resident from Maroubra and Shane Nisha  
Operations Manager*



*Mrs Miriam Flaherty Willis and  
Maj Gen Simon Willis AM CSC (Members)*



*Kaye Schollum and Lynette Trimble (Members)*



*Megan Mallick – Brand Partners and CEO  
Graham Hooper*



*Dominique and Carol (residents of Maroubra)*



*Ray James President RSL NSW, CEO Graham Hooper, Legatee Gregory Wrate – Sydney Legacy  
and Colonel John Haynes OAM*



*We have decided to pay tribute to General George Vasey by publishing an article written about him in the Daily Mirror on Wednesday, February 26 1986.*

*Continued from last edition....*

## Plane Crash ended war for AIF's fighting general.

Under Vasey came the great victory of the Kokoda Trail. He inflicted the most spectacular defeat of the Japanese to that time and showed he knew how to run a successful jungle war.

As the village of Kokoda was taken 36 days after the 7th Division went on the offensive, jubilant flower-garlanded natives trooped out to welcome the Diggers after three months of Japanese rule. Vasey urged his brigades on with characteristic enthusiasm. "The enemy is beaten," he signalled. "Give him no rest and we will annihilate him. Tighten your belts and push on." Vasey contended that a commander should always go as far as possible before the enemy stops him. To keep his infantry constantly on the advance he ordered that supplies which were coming should be air dropped well ahead.

Finally the Japanese turned to make a stand at the Kumasi River, the last natural barrier before they retreated to their starting points at Buna and Gona. Round the village of Oivi on the Kokoda side of the 120m stream they prepared an elaborate defence system. But it failed to halt the coming 7th. In one furious assault with bayonets, the Australians ripped into the Japanese headquarters and in a matter of minutes piled 500 dead in the clearing round it.

The survivors fled and under cover of darkness tried to escape across the flooded Kumasi by canoes, rafts and even swimming. Hundreds were drowned including Lt-Gen Tomatore Horii, commander of all Japanese forces in Papua. Then it was on to the northern

beaches where the Japanese dug in for a final stand. Here the 7th Division combined with the 32nd U.S Division and after weeks of grinding siege warfare all three bases of Buna, Gona and Sanananda fell.

Following a period of leave on the Atherton tableland back in Australia, Vasey led the 7th in another New Guinea campaign which saw the capture of Lae on September 16 1943. The big base which held 7000 solidly entrenched Japanese fell to a two-pronged attack by the 7th and 9th Divisions.

On September 4 the 9th landed from 80 ships on beaches about 40km due east of Lae. Almost simultaneously the 7th was flown in to Nadzab airstrip on the Markham River about 20km north - west of Lae. Once they landed, whether by sea or air, the troops of the two Australian Divisions settled down for a grim race to be the first into Lae, dealing, as they advanced, with all Japanese who tried to bar their way.

The race was almost a dead-heat being won virtually on the post by Brig Ken Eather of the 7th when in his jeep, he roared up Mt. Lunamen overlooking the town and tore down the Japanese emblem fluttering there.

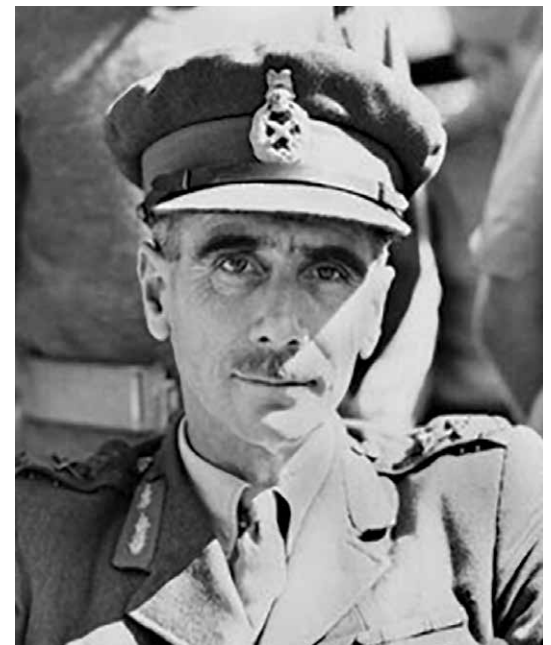
### Infection

Eather was hoisting the Australian flag in its place just as the men of the 2/32nd Battalion of the 9th Division came toiling up the other side of the mountain. That was Gen Vasey's last triumph in New Guinea. The following year while on leave he became seriously ill with polyneuritis, a viral infection of the nervous system. For a week he had tried to hide his

condition, fearing he would be ordered to hospital and another commander would take over his beloved division.

Finally Gen Vasey could bear the pain no longer and had to report sick. Months of hospitalisation and convalescence followed. As he feared command of the 7th had gone to another and he had been transferred to the supernumerary list. But typically Bloody George he fought his way back. Early in 1945 Vasey was posted to command of the 6th Division in action around Wewak. Like an old war horse snorting for Battle, he flew off for New Guinea without delay. But on the flight the plane crashed into the sea off Cairns on March 5 and all on board were killed.

*We hoped you enjoyed this three part article about George Vasey. Keep an eye out in the next edition for an article on Jessie Vasey.*



## A note from Nancy.

Many residents have commented how much they enjoy Graham Hooper's Newsletter articles about George and Jessie Vasey and are eagerly waiting for the next chapter to unfold.

I would also like to mention that the overall feedback from residents across all villages is one of gratitude for the support and understanding from all Vasey staff.

Resident feedback is very important to us. It's a good indicator of the resident/operator level of satisfaction. Please let us know if you have any concerns, complaints, suggestions for improvement and, of course, compliments which are always welcome.

As always, I would like to thank all residents for their cooperation during the

upgrades to the villages, unit renovations and the general maintenance.

Great community spirit!

Best wishes,  
Nancy Stjepanovic,  
Residents Services Manager

## Kelsey's Corner.

Thank you so much to everyone who has come on any of the trips that have been organised. They have been most enjoyable and I look forward to all the trips that are upcoming, and as always all suggestions are welcome. I am currently in the process of booking and finalising the Christmas Party. This year there will be a change in venue and entertainment. Very much looking forward to that. The exercise class at Lane Cove on Friday mornings at 10:30am is going strong and is enjoyed by all who attend. Christina, who runs the class,

is so lovely and dedicated to helping keep our residents strong and mobile, particularly focusing on balance and falls prevention. I would also like to mention that the computer classes that happen each week in the villages aren't just for computers, I can also help with how to use mobile phones and a number of other electronics. Feel free to call in and say hello, even if it is just for a cuppa and chat.

Kelsey Foy  
Social Support Coordinator

## Cronulla Trip.



## Meet our Office Manager.

Name: Akanksha Jain  
Preferred name: Aki

Hi my name is Aki and I have been working with Vasey for 1 and a half years now. My position is Office Manager. I am originally from India, I am married and have a 4 year old little girl called Amyra who visits the office once a week. If you call the office you are more than likely to speak to me. I am always happy to hear from you and help with any questions you might have. I often will go to the villages when there are meetings being held. Should you ever see me around, please come and have a chat, I look forward to getting to know each resident in time.

Thank you, Aki.

## Upcoming Resident Meetings.

Vasey residents and their relatives are encouraged to attend regular resident meetings to discuss items relating to those living in the villages. Participating in these meetings will give you the opportunity to provide feedback on the care and services we provide and having your say on various aspects of management of your facility to enhance your quality of life.

### Epping.

9th October 2019 at 10:30am  
5th February 2020 at 10.30am  
8th April 2020 at 10.30am

### Maroubra.

9th October at 2:30pm  
11th December 2019 at 2.30pm  
5th February 2020 at 2.30pm  
8th April 2020 at 2.30pm

### Lane Cove.

16th October at 10:30am  
13th December 2019 at 10.30am  
12th February 2020 at 10.30am  
15th April 2020 at 10.30am

### Hunters Hill.

16th October 2019 at 2:30pm  
13th December 2019 at 2.30pm  
12th February 2020 at 10.30am  
15th April 2020 at 10.30am

## Competition.

We had so many entries to the Sudoku competition that we had to choose a winner, by drawing a name out of a hat.

The winner is:  
**Ray Levick from Maroubra!**  
Congratulations Ray and we hope you enjoy your prize.

# Vasey.

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